

# Celebrating Collaboration

*Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body*

**You can get involved in the HSCB by attending a monthly meeting or by joining a workgroup!**

Where can YOU make a difference?

- Transportation
- Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship
- Substance Abuse · Homelessness
  - Healthy Youth · Hunger
  - Mental Health Awareness
  - Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults · Young Children
  - Community Data

## *In This Issue*

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### Stories of Hope

### Workgroup Spotlight

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#### HSCB

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## What's New in Livingston County?

### COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Funds!

Renters and landlords that have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak may be eligible for a new rental assistance program aimed at keeping people safely housed. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority's COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program has announced funding for Livingston County that is estimated to provide nearly **\$4 million in financial assistance to renters** that have lost income due to COVID-19 to pay back rent and utilities.

The program will be run locally by OLHSA, the Housing Access and Referral Agency (HARA) for Livingston, and a group of community partners that include the 53rd District Court, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, The Salvation Army of Livingston County, St Vincent de Paul Holy Spirit, St. Vincent De Paul St. Joes, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The HCCC is excited by the opportunity to ensure households affected by the pandemic are able to retain their housing and avoid the stress of becoming homeless. **Anyone interested in the program may contact OLHSA by phone at 248-209-2641 or by email at [hara@olhsa.org](mailto:hara@olhsa.org).**

# LEGISLATION TO WATCH

**Marijuana Coming to Pinckney** - In the last voting cycle that took place on November 4, 2020, a proposal for marijuana businesses passed in Pinckney.

This proposal ended the ban on marijuana establishments and makes Pinckney the first municipality in the county to allow such business. There was a 7-page proposal with businesses such as a safety compliance facility, secure transporter, microbusiness, two retail businesses, a processor, a Class A grower, a Class B grower, a Class C grower and a designated consumption establishment. The village is required to approve at least three of the proposed businesses. Developers are potentially looking at turning the old Pinckney Elementary School into marijuana establishments. A conditional rezoning has been granted for the address from High Density Residential to the villages' version of industrial. Although the rezoning has been granted on a conditional basis, no projects on the building have been given the go ahead just yet.

## Bill proposed to extend alcohol sales to 4am

A bill has been electronically reproduced after being lost in the Senate before the holidays. This bill would expand the hours allowed to sell alcoholic beverages. Currently in Michigan, a business that sells alcohol on premise is allowed to sell until 2am. If this bill passes, businesses can apply to extend their hours. Once approved by the applicant's local legislative body, the business may then remain open until 4am. If this bill passes, an extended hour's permit will not be granted unless approved by the applicant's local legislative body. According to research done by the Community Guide, extending the hours of alcohol sales can be associated with an increase in alcohol consumption, an increase in motor vehicle crashes, as well as a shift in timing of these vehicle crashes. Additional studies found an increase in emergency room admissions and an increase in alcohol-related assault and injury. Keep a look out for more information on this bill to come.



## Stories of Hope

Hoarding can be a danger to anyone, particularly when it spirals out of control. The risks associated with hoarding are more likely to be a serious threat to the health and safety of older adults. The distress of parting with hoarded items usually stems from other attachment problems. Most often there is a mental health issue linked to childhood experiences and hoarding serves as a replacement for healthy relationships.

Developed in 2016, the Livingston County Hoarding Task Force is made up of representatives from in-home care, home based programming, emergency services, mental health and businesses that work on hoarding organization and clean up. Most of their clients are living on a fixed income and are referred by either a police or fire department.

Beth Newman, Senior Community Liaison at LCCC, is Co-Chair of the Task Force. She shared a story of a recent client who came to the Task Force's attention due to having been sued over her hoarding situation. The client was so poorly treated that the Brighton Fire Marshal was inspired to lead a volunteer effort to help her de-ward. They paid upfront for a dumpster and cleaning supplies, which were ultimately reimbursed by the St. Vincent de Paul connections at Holy Spirit, St. Augustine and St Joseph Churches.



The client who was treated poorly said the Task Force [those] "who helped me did not make me feel like dirt. **I never knew they were such good people in our community!**"

If you are interested in becoming involved in the [Hoarding Task Force](#), please contact Amy Johnston at [ajohnston@cmhliv.org](mailto:ajohnston@cmhliv.org).



# TAKE NOTE:



Livingston County State of the County 2020 address video is on the Livingston County website. The successful partnerships within Livingston County and the non profits who have worked collaboratively during the pandemic are recognized! [Check it out here!](#)

**Dome Day - March 4, 2021**  
Youth from across the state meet with local legislators to advocate for runaway and homeless youth programming.



**Michigan Works! Southeast** is Making Connections to a Better Future even during this pandemic! We continued serving Livingston County by working with our customers virtually until we were able to re-introduce in-person appointments mid-summer. Since March of 2020 we have helped thousands in Livingston County with their unemployment claims. Thank you to our Community Partners for contacting us for help! We strive to be your "go to" for employment needs and we were happy when so many of you contacted us to help your customers, friends and family members. We are now pivoting back to providing career services and have access to thousands of jobs in our region. If you have not been called back to work, we may be able to connect you with an employer. If you are an employer who needs employees, we may be able to connect you with a job seeker. Please see our website for more information – [www.mwse.org](http://www.mwse.org).

# Workgroup Spotlight:

## Foster Care, Adoption & Kinship Services (FAKS)

Livingston County FAKS Workgroup is a collaborative group of child placing agencies, community service providers, the court, and foster parents who meet to assess the needs of Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship families in Livingston County. We work together to fill gaps in services, provide training, and provide opportunities for connection for the families we serve. There are sub-groups that focus on training, family events, adoption, faith-based organizations, social media, and fund raising. **For information on becoming a foster parent or other ways you can help, please contact our Livingston FAKS line at 517-548-0233.**

## LACASA Center asks you to Save-the-Dates!

**APRIL**– Child Abuse Prevention Month: Keep an eye out for pinwheels in your community which is a symbol of hope and awareness for preventing child abuse

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** Follow our website or social media for ways to get involved and spread awareness about sexual assault during the month of April  
**April 28 International Denim Day** – Wear your denim to raise awareness about sexual assault, post on social media and be entered to win a gift card!

## Yearly Fundraising Events –

June 28: 'Drive Out Child Abuse' Celebrity Golf Scramble  
July 10 & 11: Garden Tour Weekend  
Sept. 18: Denim & Diamonds  
Oct. 10: LACASA's 40th Anniversary Party

## Livingston County Catholic Charities Upcoming Events:

**Caregiver Support Group - Dementia & Other Memory Related Diseases** - 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5:00p-6:00p at Be Our Guest Adult Day. Call to reserve your spot 517-546-9910.

**Collaboration between LCCC and Health Dept. to reach homebound seniors to provide in-home vaccinations** - In an effort to reach homebound seniors to provide "in-home" COVID-19 vaccinations, Livingston County Health Department (LCHD), has asked Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) to assist with outreach efforts. LCCC Community Liaison staff have been busy making phone calls to both past and present clients to share this valuable information and help connect them to and sign-up for this opportunity.

**Wake-Up Livingston Reality Tour** - Wake Up Livingston is hosting this event for FREE. The tour is recommended for children age 10 and up when accompanied by their parent. Interested participants should register for the date and time they would like to attend at <https://livcorealitytour2021.eventbrite.com>.

For any questions, please contact [cassandra@livingstoncatholiccharities.com](mailto:cassandra@livingstoncatholiccharities.com).

## JOIN US ONLINE! COOKING MATTERS AT HOME FOR LIVINGSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS

Will receive food gift card for each class attended-limited capacity

Starting March 2 @ 11 AM for 5 weeks

Register at:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/cookingathome/>

SNAP-Ed eligible preferred

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Livingston County  
**Hunger**  
Council

## OLHSA offers free financial & homebuyer education webinars

If you are looking for ways to improve your financial knowledge, such as what can be done to improve your credit score, or how do you really utilize a budget, OLHSA has the resource for you. We offer free webinars, via Zoom, that provide information and strategies to apply to your situation. Class topics and times vary each month; February is Debt Reduction, March is Debt Negotiation and Improve Your Credit.

Future topics include Utilizing a Budget, and Creating Savings.

We also provide a monthly homebuyer education webinar that is conducted in partnership with professionals from the banking and real estate industry. We cover a broad range of topics related to the home buying process, including working with real estate agents, inspections, appraisals, different loan options, down payment assistance, credit and mortgage approval, and closing documents. It is geared towards first time homebuyers, but all are welcome. Must be a current Oakland or Livingston County resident to attend. A certificate of completion will be provided for those who attend the class in its entirety; this class and certificate are required for MSHDA down payment assistance.

Register for all webinars online at <https://www.olhsa.org/events> or contact [housingcounseling@olhsa.org](mailto:housingcounseling@olhsa.org) for more information



Livingston County Community Mental Health will be hosting 3 virtual **Youth Mental Health First Aid** trainings for members of the public to improve mental health literacy – helping them identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness in adolescents.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is a 6.5-hour training certification course which teaches participants a five-step action plan to assess a situation, select and implement interventions and secure appropriate care for the youth. The certification program introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact and overviews common treatments. Thorough evaluations in randomized controlled trials and a quantitative study have proved the CPR-like program effective in improving trainees' knowledge of mental disorders, reducing stigma and increasing the amount of help provided to others.

### Upcoming virtual training dates:

Thursday 3/4: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Friday 4/9: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Friday 5/7: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (Core Competency)

\*The virtual training requires 2 hours of self-paced pre-work to be completed online prior to the course, as a result registration is required 1 week in advance of training.

### For registration information please contact:

Jessica Evert [jevert@cmhliv.org](mailto:jevert@cmhliv.org) 517-548-0081



Save  
the  
date!

OLHSA will be hosting its annual Walk for Warmth fundraising event on **Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.** at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center in Howell. This year's event will take place outdoors and masks are required. The event is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every year members of the community come together for the walk-a-thon to raise funds for OLHSA's Emergency Utility Assistance Program, which helps keep local residents safe and comfortable in their homes. **Donations raised in Livingston County directly assist those in need.** More details on all the fun to come closer to event day!

Visit [olhsa.org/walk4warmth](https://olhsa.org/walk4warmth) for more information.



*Ensuring a system  
of support for  
members of our  
community*

## Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

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